

REMARKS

Claims 10-29 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 10, 18 and 19 are amended and claim 29 is added. Obvious typographical informalities are corrected in claims 10 and 19. Claim 18 is amended to further clarify the order of the lens unit and the optical viewfinder unit in the imaging unit main body. Claim 29 is similar to claim 18, except for the last subparagraph of claim 29, which recites an electronic flash unit rather than an optical viewfinder unit. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 10-17 and 25-28, and the identification of allowable subject matter in claims 19 and 24. Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance as detailed below.

Claims 18 and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-A-7-226870 (Shinohara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,815,205 (Hashimoto et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to independent claim 18, neither Shinohara nor Hashimoto et al. discloses the claimed arrangement in which the lens unit is mounted near the first side surface (which is rotatably coupled to a second side surface of a display unit main body) of an imaging unit main body, and in which the lens unit and optical viewfinder unit on the imaging unit main body are arranged relative to each other such that the lens unit is disposed closer to the first side face and the optical viewfinder unit is disposed closer to the opposing side face. As shown in Fig. 1 of Shinohara, the shooting lens 2 is arranged at a position on the electronic still camera body 1 that is separated from (not near to) a surface of camera body 1 that is rotatably coupled to the monitor 30. Hashimoto et al. in Figs. 1A and 1B shows an arrangement in which a digital camera includes a lens 7 disposed near one side of the digital camera and a viewfinder 116 disposed adjacent to the lens 7. At col. 4, lines 50-53, Hashimoto et al. indicates that the digital camera includes contacts 162 and connectors 164

on a side of the camera which allows the camera to be connected to a video display and speaker. As is clear from Figs. 1A and 1B, the contacts 162 and connectors 164 are disposed on the side surface of the digital camera that is spaced away from the side on which the lens 7 is disposed (that is, the view in Fig. 1B is rotated 180° relative to the view in Fig. 1A).

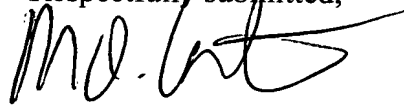
As such, even when the teachings of Hashimoto et al. and Shinohara are combined, the arrangement of Applicants' claim 18 does not result. In particular, Shinohara and Hashimoto et al. do not disclose or suggest placing the lens unit near the first side face of the imaging unit main body (the first side face being the face that is [rotatably] coupled to the second side face of the display unit main body) and an arrangement in which the lens unit is disposed closer to the first side face while the optical viewfinder unit is disposed closer to the opposing side face. Accordingly, independent claim 18 and its dependent claims are patentable over Shinohara and Hashimoto et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent claim 29 also is patentable over Shinohara and Hashimoto et al. Shinohara and Hashimoto et al., even when combined, do not disclose or suggest the claim 29 arrangement in which the lens unit is mounted near the first side face of the imaging unit main body and in which the lens unit is disposed closer to the first side face while the electronic flash unit is disposed closer to the opposing side face. Accordingly, independent claim 29 also is patentable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 15, 2006

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